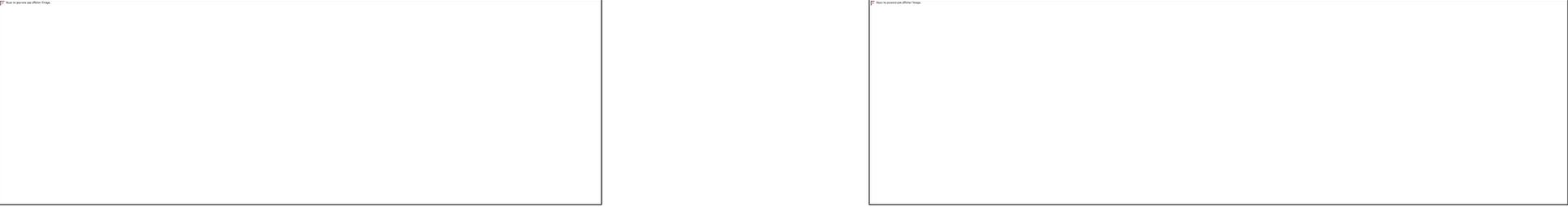


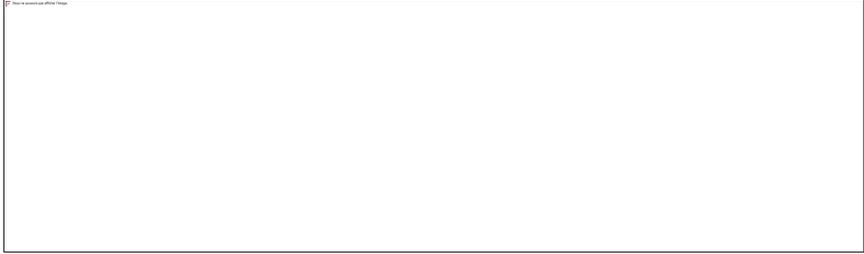
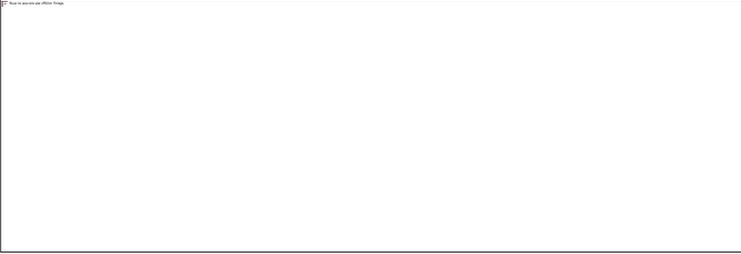
EXPERIENCES IN COVID 19 RELATED PROCUREMENTS

**Ellias Hausi
DIRECTOR GENERAL**



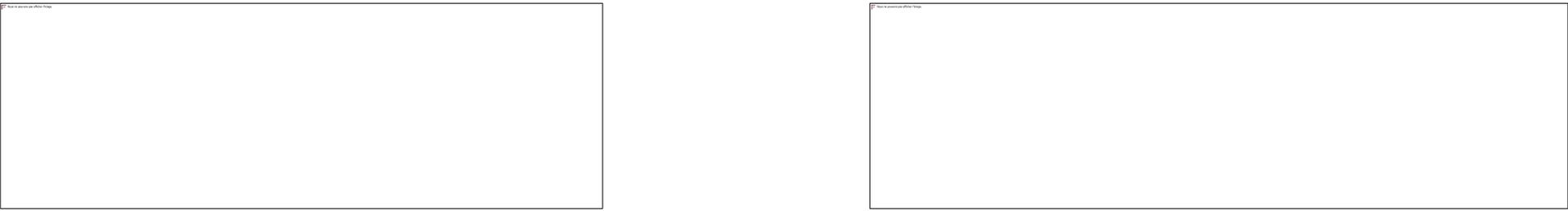
Outline of Presentation

- Introduction
- Scope of the Presentation
- Source of Funds
- Procurement Arrangements
- Conclusion



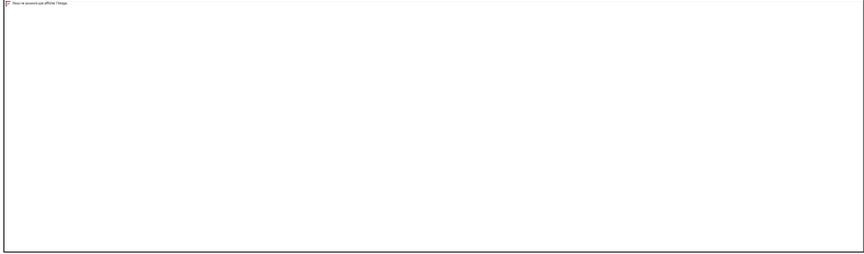
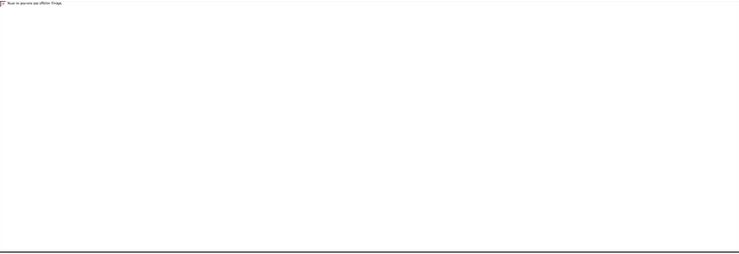
Introduction

- COVID -19 has hit so many countries globally with over 43.6 m. confirmed cases, 1.161 m. deaths and 29.262 m. recoveries
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, the disease has hit badly but the registered and reported deaths is far less than elsewhere
- In Malawi, 183 deaths have been officially reported so far from 5,894 cases.
- 5,294 recoveries were recorded with 417 active cases.



Scope of Procurement

- The presentation covers the experiences by the various PDEs in carrying out procurements related to the COVID 19 pandemic
- Most public institutions were funded through DoDMA to carry out COVID19 containment measures
- Government Ministries and Departments were funded through direct payment to suppliers of goods and services upon presentation of invoices
- Statutory bodies and Local Authorities were funded directly in advance, and effected payments on their own



Scope of Procurement

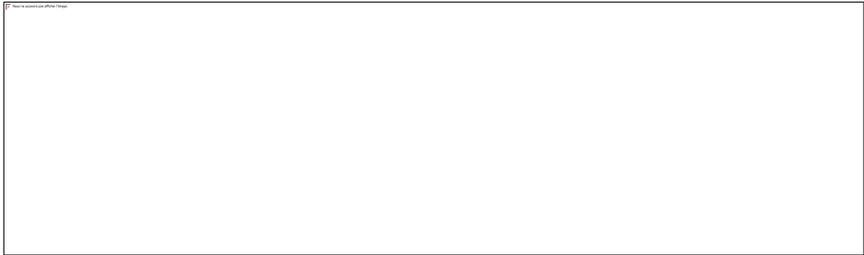
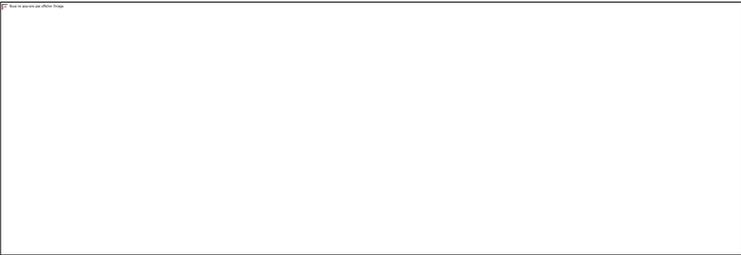
- The materials procured under COVID 19 funding included:
 - Test kits (for COVID testing sites) and medicines for isolation centres
 - Personal Protective Equipment (for medical personnel and other officers exposed to COVID patients e.g. gloves, masks and face shields)
 - Anti-bacterial soap and hand sanitizers
 - Water buckets (for public places such as schools, voter registration centres, health facilities, markets etc)
 - Patient monitors for isolation centres
 - Oxygen cylinders for isolation centres



Source of Funds

The funds used in COVID 19 related procurements came from various sources including:

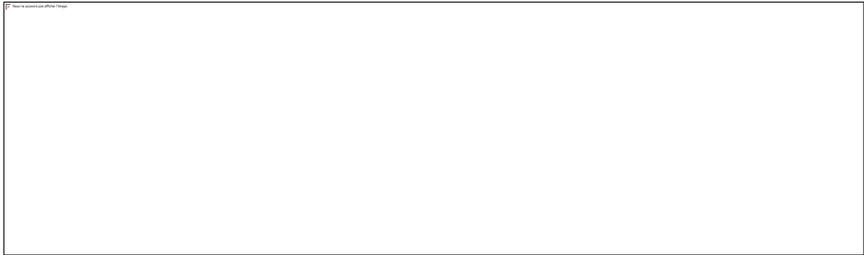
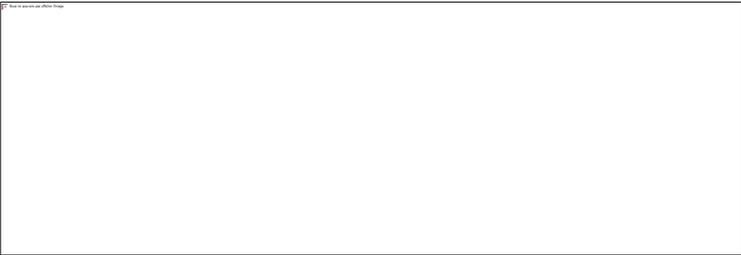
- Government (Treasury)
- Development Partners
- Own resources (for commercial parastatals)



Procurement Arrangements

Role of the PPDA

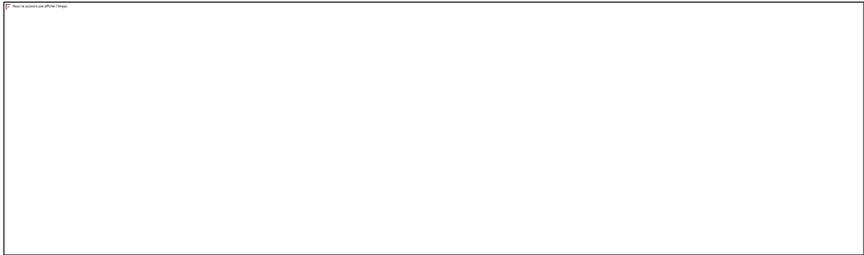
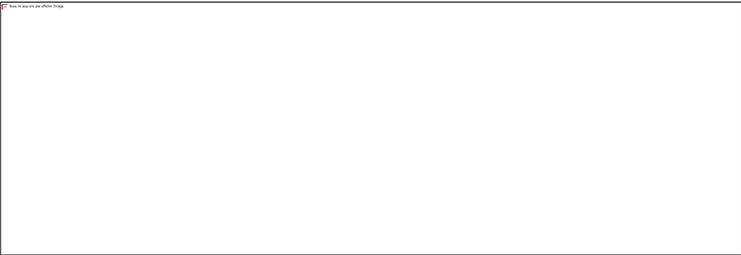
- Considering urgency of COVID 19 related procurements, PPDA in liaison with the Ministry of Finance and Development Partners simplified processes with a view to saving lives
- Due to susceptibility to fraud and corruption, the PPDA tightened transparency requirements by requiring open tendering irregardless of value
- PPDA issued a circular to all PDEs providing guidance on the conduct of COVID related procurement



Procurement Arrangements

Role of the PPDA

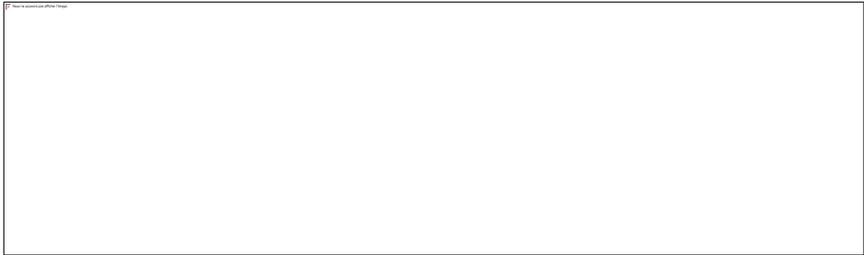
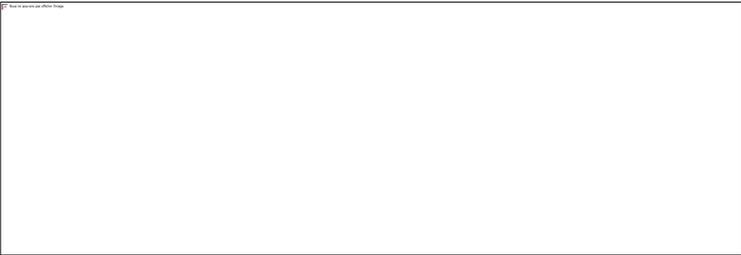
- Overall, the circular emphasized the need for transparency and value for money in the processes while ensuring speedy realization of outcomes
- Specifically, the circular reiterated:
 - a) The use of open tender method in all procurements but recognizing publication of advertisements on the PPDA website;
 - b) Use of abridged bidding period with 24 hours being the minimum;
 - c) Publication of results of procurement processes on the PPDA website including the details of the products being procured, the names and Directors of the successful bidders, contract value and its implementation status within 14 days from date of award
 - d) Record keeping to facilitate procurement post reviews.



Experiences in Covid Procurements

Positive Experiences

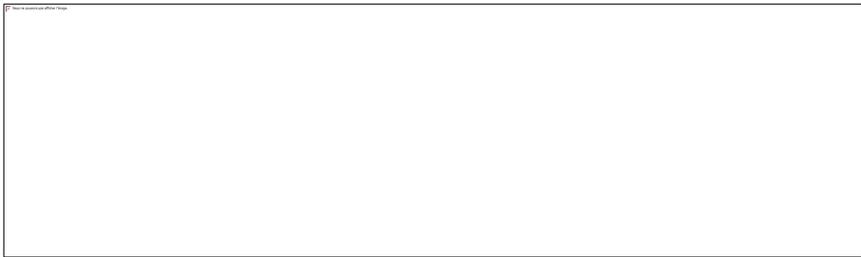
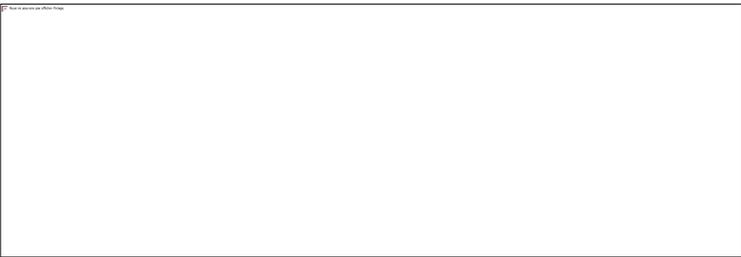
- The use of simplified procedures whereby no comprehensive bidding documents were prepared excited most PDU staff as it made procurement simple
- Use of abridged bidding periods facilitated timely acquisition of the required items
- **Paradigm shift:** The PPDA is currently implementing an electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) project with financial assistance from the World Bank. One of the requirements is to make the PPDA website a business page where all procurement opportunities will be advertised. COVID presented an opportunity to pilot this arrangement and business enterprises should embrace it.



Experiences in Covid Procurements

Negative Experiences

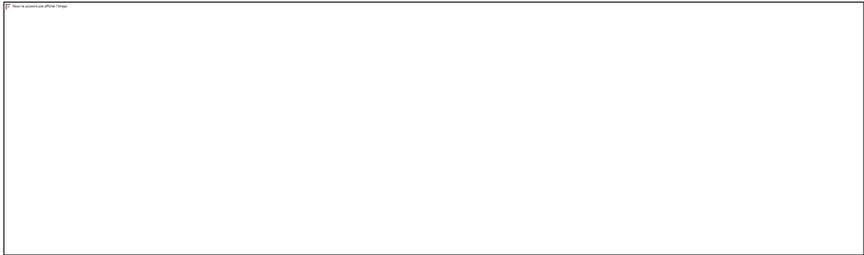
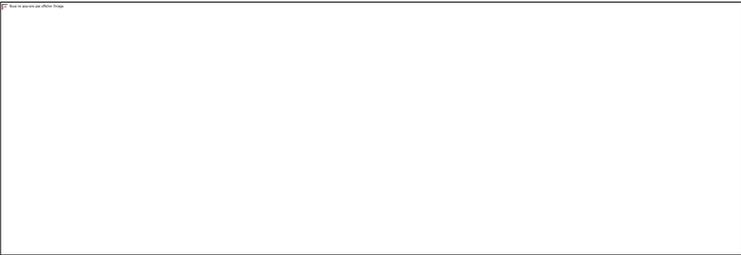
- **Wrong classification:** some institutions brought in additional items as COVID related to take advantage of the simplified procedures and abridged bidding periods e.g. Chancellor College classified laptops meant for teaching through Zoom as Covid 19 related procurement
- **Delayed deliveries:** Since COVID 19 necessitated closure of airports, some goods could not be transported in time. In some cases, staff in foreign missions had to be involved in trying to expedite movement of critical commodities from source to destination country.



Experiences in Covid Procurements

Negative Experiences

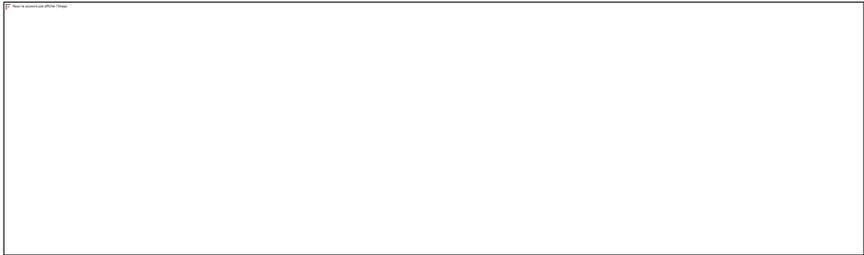
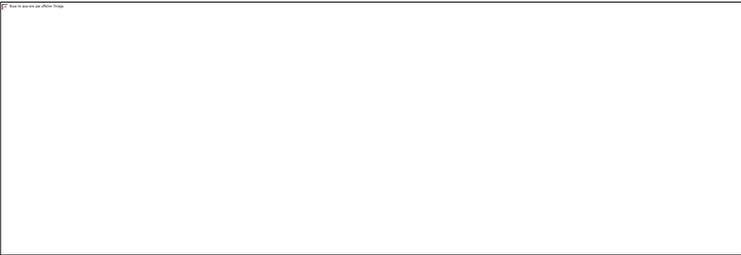
- **Poor Specifications:** Since most of the items were required urgently, PDEs had no time to adequately review their specifications resulting in taking delivery of poor quality items
- **Inadequate competition:** Much as emphasis was placed on open tendering through electronic means i.e. publication of adverts on PPDA website, most business entities were used to advertising through newspapers and they lost out on several business opportunities because they were not aware of this approach
 - Others failed to prepare and submit their offers because of the limited timelines within which the PDEs required the same.



Experiences in Covid Procurements

Negative Experiences

- **Poor Records Management:** Post Procurement reviews revealed that despite the much emphasis on record keeping, most PDEs did not have adequate documents to enable a proper review of the procurement. While, the urgent nature could be a contributing factor, the truth is that records management is a big problem in the entire public sector and public procurement is no exception.
- **Inadequate oversight:** Much as the PPDA circular emphasised the need for PPRs, members of staff from PPDA were not comfortable to go around visiting PDEs for due to controlled gatherings. This left a huge gap in terms of monitoring and oversight functions of the PPDA. This is compromised oversight.



Experiences in Covid Procurements

Negative Experiences

- **Loss of productivity:** Most private sector institutions went on voluntary shut down whilst public institutions had to reduce work force to 5% for non essential services, whilst essential services reduced work force to barely enable continuation of service. In case of PPDA staff rotated in weekly shifts.
- The repo effect of low productivity reached every sector of economy, including informal sector. Socially, soaring poverty levels in rural areas saw soaring teen pregnancies and early marriages. Churches and other religious institutions were not spared with congregational gatherings restricted to 100.

Choosing marriage over school under COVID 19

